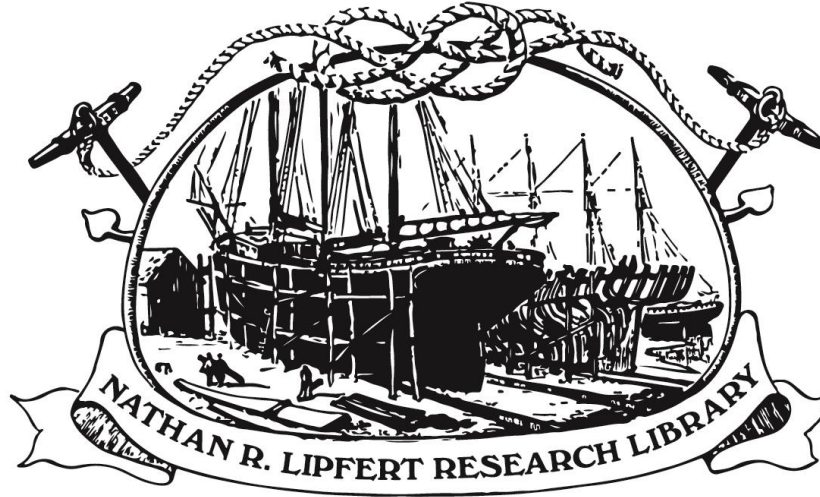


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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS - 366**

Francis D. Hodgkins Family Papers

1851-1891

by
Elisabeth Meier
February 2020

½ box
0.2 linear feet
Accession nos. 2003.72.190.1-2

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Abstract

Hodgkins, Francis D. (1824-1901)

Francis D. Hodgkins Family Papers

MS-366

1851-1891

½ box

Fisherman, shipbuilder, and fish merchant in Lamoine, Maine

This collection contains business and personal letters from Francis D. Hodgkins of Lamoine, Maine. The business letters deal with most aspects of Hodgkins's career, including outfitting and operating fishing schooners, selling fish, gathering cargoes for the coasting trade, and shipbuilding. The personal address family and domestic life as well as business matters.

In English.

Gift of Dr. Charles E. Burden

Accession Nos. 2003.72.190.1-2

Finding aid available in repository and online, folder level control.

Preferred Citation: Francis D. Hodgkins Family Papers (MS-366). Maine Maritime Museum

Added entries—persons:

Hodgkins, Francis D. (1824-1901)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

F.D. Hodgkins & Co. (Lamoine, Me.)

Added entries—key terms:

Coastwise trade

Cod fisheries

Fish trade

Fisheries – equipment and supplies

Fishers

Mackerel fisheries

Sailors

Salt trade

Shipbuilding

Added entries—places:

Lamoine, Me.

Acquisition

This collection was given to Maine Maritime Museum by Dr. Charles E. Burden in 2003. Charles E. Burden; Gift; 2003; 2003.072.190.1-2

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The papers are mostly in good condition. Some have water stains, faded ink, mouse damage, creases, and, occasionally, tears, but all are legible.

Related Materials

Account books and papers from Francis L. Hodgkins's brother, Gilman B. Hodgkins, are in MS-328. As the brothers were involved in overlapping aspects of the fishing trade, MS-328 contains additional records of Francis's own business as well as valuable context for this collection.

Historical Note

Francis D. "Frank" Hodgkins (1824-1901) was the son of Nathan and Harriet (Googins) Hodgkins of Trenton, Maine. Hodgkins and his brothers Gilman B. (1826-1913) and David Dyer (b. 1831) all had intertwined careers in the fishing and shipbuilding business. All three brothers were listed as fishermen in the 1850 census. Gilman later went on to own and manage a number of fishing and coasting schooners, while David D. became a master shipwright in Lamoine.

Francis D. Hodgkins also moved to Lamoine. He had an active career as a fisherman, fish curer, fish merchant, shipbuilder, and ship owner under the name F. D. Hodgkins & Co. He owned, managed, and occasionally captained schooners in the mackerel fisheries around the Magdalen Islands and the cod fisheries on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, among others. As a fish curer, he was one of the last Maine companies to dry salt cod. He sold the processed fish to Boston and other New England cities, and arranged cargoes of salt, lumber, and stone to augment the trading business. As a shipbuilder, he produced schooners; he also occasionally purchased vessels from other builders for fishing and coasting.

Francis D. Hodgkins married Clara Coggins (1833-1870). They had six children: Francis L. (b. 1854), Helen A. (b. 1856), Charles (b. 1858), Herbert (b. 1861), Nathan (1864-1873), and Rosa (b. 1867). Francis L., Charles, and Herbert all joined their father as partners in F. D. Hodgkins & Co. as young men. Francis L. came to specialize in the fish business, while Charles became a captain and later switched from fishing to the coasting trades. Herbert eventually quit the firm and became a dentist.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains business and family letters from Francis D. Hodgkins. The business letters, from Hodgkins's firm, F. D. Hodgkins & Co., cover a variety of topics related to the firm's activities in fishing, trading, and shipbuilding. These include letters outfitting and securing crew for fishing trips to the Grand Banks and the Magdalen Islands; information on prices for cod, herring, mackerel, hake, fish oil, and bait in Boston, New York, and other

markets; letters arranging cargoes of lumber, stone, lime, salt, and fish to and from Lamoine; and inquiries about ships being built by the Hodgkins family. The surviving letters are not complete, but reflect a wide sample of Hodgkins's correspondence.

The personal letters principally consist of correspondence between Francis D. Hodgkins and his wife, siblings, and children. The more personal of these contain details of Hodgkins's fishing trips and of family life ashore, but many deal primarily with the family businesses of fishing, coasting, and shipbuilding.

In addition to the letters, there is a document granting Francis D. Hodgkins power of attorney for his brother in law, H. S. Boynton, a receipt for dressed hogs, and a copy of a letter recommending Russell Selfridge for Assistant Paymaster in the US Navy.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder
1	Business correspondence, incoming
	1 Names beginning A – D
	2 F – J
	3 L – P
	4 R – W
	5 Unidentified
	Personal correspondence, incoming
	6 Harriet Hodgkins, from Francis D. Hodgkins
	7 Francis D. Hodgkins, from Gilman B. and David D. Hodgkins
	8 from Clara (Coggins) Hodgkins
	9 from Francis L. Hodgkins
	10 from Charles Hodgkins
	11 from Herbert Hodgkins
	12 Clara (Coggins) Hodgkins, from Francis D. Hodgkins
	13 Francis L., Charles, and Rosa Hodgkins, from family
	14 Herbert Hodgkins, from friends
	15 Unidentified
	16 Power of Attorney, Francis D. Hodgkins for H.S. Boynton
	17 Account for dressed hogs
	18 Copy of letter recommending Russell Selfridge for Assistant Paymaster, U.S. Navy